



## PREPARING FOR EARTHQUAKE

The more prepared you are for emergencies, the less stressful they become. Some simple steps can help you to plan and prepare for unexpected events like earthquake and protect you, your loved ones and your property.

Where there is major structural damage from an earthquake, DSH Insurance may need to obtain reports from specialists such as a building consultant or engineer before repairs can commence.

### Signs of earthquake

- Hearing sounds such as rumbling or rolling
- Animals exhibiting unusual behaviour
- Feeling a jolt or series of jolts of varying intensities from earth movement
- Feeling a rolling sensation
- Items falling from ceiling, walls or cupboards
- Water in sinks and toilets splashing around
- Walls may crack if the shock is severe
- Check for fire or fire hazards
- Beware of leaking gas or damaged electrical lines

### During the earthquake

- **If inside** - Drop to the ground and take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture and hold on till the shaking stops.
- Stay away from glass, windows and doors and anything that could fall.
- Stay inside till the shaking stops
- Don't use elevators
- You may lose power and sprinkler systems and fire alarms may turn on
- **If outside** - Stay in the open till the shaking stops.
- Move away from buildings, street lights and power lines
- The greatest danger is at building exits and alongside external walls
- **If driving** - Stop as quickly as possible and stay in the vehicle.
- Avoid stopping near trees, buildings, overpasses and power lines
- Once shaking has stopped avoid roads, bridges and ramps that might be damaged
- **If you're trapped under debris** - Do not light a match or a lighter
- Keep as still as possible, do not move or kick about
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing
- Tap a pipe or wall or call out so rescuers can locate you

### After the earthquake

- \* Listen to your ABC Local Radio on a battery-powered radio for updates and advice
- \* Check for cracks and damage to your home's floors, walls and ceilings
- \* Evacuate if the building is badly damaged
- \* Turn off electricity, gas or water supplies and check if they have been affected
- \* Do not light matches or lighters until after you have checked for gas or fuel leaks
- \* Be prepared for aftershocks.
- \* Beware of damaged buildings, power lines, bridges and trees
- \* Follow any instructions for treating water. Conserve food and water as supplies may be interrupted
- \* Try to stay calm and help others around you.

